

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 18535 081659Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1401
INFO AMEMASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 18535

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR,US, IS, EG, XF
SUBJ: GENEVA PREPARATIONS- ISRAELI REACTION TO REPORTED PRO-
POSAL BY SADAT FOR PRE-GENEVA WORKING GROUP

REF (A) TEL AVIV 8888, (B) CAIRO 18456, (C) CAIRO 18368,

1. SADAT'S TV INTERVIEW EVENING NOV 4 IN WHICH HE SPOKE
OF WORKINGGROUP CHAIRED BY US TO PREPARE FOR GENEVA HAS ALSO
AROUSED WIDE INTEREST HERE (REF C) AND EVEN MORE SO AFTER
PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED ISRAELI TURNDOWN. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, SADAT
MADE NO REF TO ANY SUCH IDEA WHEN I SAW HIM ON NOV 5. I HAVE
FROM THE OUTSET OF THIS MINI-FLAP READ HIS COMMENTS AS A
REITERATION OF HIS EARLIER IDEA OF A WORKING GROUP, BUT WHY
HE SHOULD HAVE RAISED THE MATTER AGAIN IN HIS RECENT INTERVIEW
IS PUZZLING. EVEN FAHMY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND IT AND, IN A
PRESS INTERVIEW GIVEN TWO DAYS LATER, DOWN PLAYED IT AS REIT-
ERATION OF EARLIER IDEA AND NOT A CALL FOR NEW WORKING PAPER
(REF B). IN PUBLIC MEDIA INTERVIEWS, SADAT SOMETMES GETS CARRIED
AWAY AND REVERTS TO EARLIER IDEAS. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME
SUCH A THING HAS HAPPENED.

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2. IN RESPONSE SAPE OF QUESTIONS FROM DIP COLLEAGUES AND
OTHERS ABOUT SADAT PROPOSAL, I HAVE INDICATED UNAWARENESS OF ANY
NEW PROPOSAL ALONG THOSE LINES AND HAVE REMINDED INTERLOC-
UTORS OF SADAT'S EARLIER WORKING GROUP CONCEPT. (THIS IS CON-
SISTENT WITH FAHMY EXPLANATOR STATEMENT CITED ABOVE.) I HAVE
SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN SADAT'S MOST RECENT STATEMENT IN TERMS

OF HIS BELIEF THAT ADEQUATE ADVANCE PREPARATION IS NECESSARY
IF GENEVA IS TO STAND ANY CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING. HAVE POINTED OUT
THAT IT IS THIS KIND OF PREPARATION WHICH IS CURRENTLY THE
SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN US AND THE PARTIES INVOLVED.

3. WOULD NOTE THAT IN MEETING WITH PRESS FOLLOWING TALKS WITH
KING HUSSEIN, NOV 7, SADAT HIMSELF DEFLATED WORKING
GROUP BALLOON WITH COMMENT THAT IT IS NO MORE THAN AN OLD IDEA
PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED TO SEC VANCE.
EILTS

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